

Amendment of the Drawings

Kindly amend the instant application by inserting the attached "NEW SHEET". An explanation of the amendments set forth on the New Sheet is set forth in the Remarks.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-21, 23-30, and 32-36 are pending in the application. Claims 22 and 31 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 14-16, 23-25, 28, 32-36 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Amendment of the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under Rule 83a. Attached is a NEW SHEET that overcomes the objection. NEW SHEET contains new Figure 2a. Figure 2a is essentially the same as original Figure 2, but the rubber rollers 46 and 52 are shown on the same side. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 10, lines 4-8. No new matter is added.

The attached NEW SHEET is an informal drawing. If it meets with the Examiner's approval, then Applicant shall submit a formal drawing.

Amendments to the Specification

The amendments to the specification are made in view of the amendment to the drawings.

Claim Objections

The objections to the claims have been addressed in the amendment of the claims. The claims have been renumbered and the typographical error has been corrected.

§112 Rejection

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 24, 25, 33, and 34 are rejected under §112. Those claims have been amended to overcome the rejection.

§102 Rejection

Independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 are rejected as anticipated by Ames (US 6,253,431). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ames discloses in Figure 1 that the metal rollers 42, 62, and 72 lie above tow 14 and that the roller pairs 40, 60, and 70 are horizontally disposed. Also see Ames, column 4, lines 8-64.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been clarified to recite that the "metal rollers [are] oppositely disposed about the tow." Accordingly, these claims distinguish Ames.

Independent claims 19 and 28 have been amended to recite that the "pairs of rollers [are] vertically aligned one over the other

or at any angle between vertically aligned and horizontally aligned, but not including horizontally aligned." Support for this amendment is found in the specification (Page 10, lines 20-last line). Accordingly, these claims distinguish Ames.

Therefore, claims 1-21, 23-30, and 32-36 are patentable over Ames.

§103 Rejection

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 24, 25, 33, and 34 are rejected as obvious over Ames.

Since each of these claims depends from an allowable independent claim, they are now allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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